



PHD

PRE-HEALTH DREAMERS

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Access When Pursuing Health Careers

Yadira Ortiz, Executive Director, Pre-Health Dreamers

yadi@phdreamers.org

[@phdreamers](https://www.phdreamers.org)



“

PHD MISSION

Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) promotes a culture of inclusion in higher education and healthcare by working with institutions to establish equitable holistic support and processes for undocumented communities.

Established in 2012



WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT PERMANENT STATUS IN THE U.S.?



UNDOCUMENTED

(without work authorization or EAD/SSN)

Immigrants who lack lawful status granted by federal authorities and do not possess a visa or work authorization.



DACA (DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS)

Announced in 2012; has afforded many young adults with new opportunities by providing access to work authorization, a social security number, and reprieve from deportation. Often referred to as “Dreamers.”



WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT PERMANENT STATUS IN THE U.S.?



TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)

A temporary program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if something catastrophic happened in their country of origin preventing their safe return.
(cliniclegal.org)



REFUGEE/ASYLUM SEEKER

Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.



SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS)

SIJS is a way for immigrant youth (under 21 years old) to get legal status in the United States. Must be separated from or hurt by one or both of your parents



PHD: Overcoming Barriers and Creating Awareness

01

Impaction = US Citizens
and US Residents Only

02

Unaware of policies and
processes that support

03

Background Checks
Require SSN (Myth)

04

Clinical sites/volunteer
opportunities require
SSN

05

Financial Aid Support

06

Political Climate & Biases

07

Medical Residency

08

Employment:
"How will they use their degree?"

Your advancement can vary, based on...



Program Requirements - Impact

Student's advocacy and networking skills

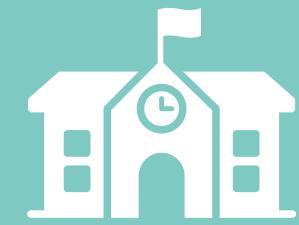


Educators, directors and coordinators' knowledge and advocacy skills.

(Ex. Income-Generating Options)



The student (and educator's) knowledge of their rights as an undocumented student



Size of institution and public vs private



How much the institution/program wants to or has capacity to change.

SEVEN WHY'S

A technique used to explore the cause-and-effect relationships underlying a specific problem.

“It is important for the student to know WHY they are being denied a resource, application, experience ect.”



CA Policies Advancing Undocumented Students



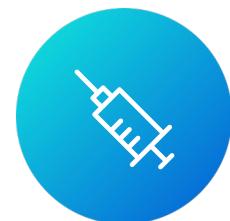
CA ED Code § 66270 (2018)

Prohibits institutions of higher education from denying based on immigration status.



SB 1139

Explicitly prohibits hospitals and other clinical sites from denying undocumented nursing students admission to unpaid "healing arts" training programs because of their "immigration status."



SB 1159

Access to professional licensure regardless of status; individuals need an ITIN



Background Checks

Do not need an SSN



EXAMINATION APPLICATION FEES & INSTRUCTIONS

IV. U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER & TAX INFORMATION

Disclosure of your U.S. Social Security Number or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) is mandatory. Section 30 of the Business and Professions Code and Public Law 94-455 (42 USC section (c)(2)(C)) authorize collection of your U.S. Social Security Number/ITIN. Your U.S. Social Security Number/ITIN will be used exclusively for tax enforcement purposes, for purposes of compliance with any judgment or order for family support in accordance with Section 11350.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or for verification of licensure or examination status by a licensing or examination entity which utilizes a national examination where licensure is reciprocal with the requesting state. **If you fail to disclose your U.S. Social Security Number/ITIN, your application for initial or renewal license will not be processed.** You will also be reported to the Franchise Tax Board, which may assess a \$100 penalty against you. Questions regarding the Franchise Tax Board should be directed to (800) 852-5711.

ALERT: Effective July 1, 2012, the Board of Registered Nursing is required to deny an application for licensure and to suspend the license/certificate/registration of any applicant or licensee who has outstanding tax obligations due to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) or the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and appears on either the FTB or BOE's certified lists of top 500 tax delinquencies over \$100,000. (AB 1424, Perea, Chapter 455, Statutes of 2011).

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

- Having an ITIN helps
- Will vary by state
- May vary by profession



Professional Licensure available to individuals with an ITIN
regardless of status:

- California (SB 1159, 2014)
- Colorado (SB77, 2021)
- Illinois (SB3109, 2018)
- Nevada (AB275, 2019)
- New Jersey (S2455, 2020)
- New Mexico (SB 137, 2020)
- Oregon (SB854, 2019)
- Maryland (SB454, Oct 2023)

Health careers are available at various educational levels

Associates Degree (2 years)

- Nursing
- Dental Assistant
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Optician

***EMT/Paramedic

***Pharmacy Technician

Bachelor's Degree Programs (4-year)

- Registered Nurse
- Dental Hygienist
- Registered Dietician
- Recreational Therapist
- Athletic Trainer

***Clinical Lab Technician

Master's Degree Programs (2-3 years after Bachelor's Degree)

- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Public Health
- SpeechLanguage Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist

***Clinical Lab Scientist

Doctoral Degree Programs (4 or more years after Bachelor's Degree)

- *** Medicine
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Optometry
- Podiatric Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine

*** Programs like these can provide you with clinical experience for other programs.

However, entrepreneurship/independent contracting in these fields may have more obstacles.

WHAT'S A MEDICAL RESIDENCY

A medical residency is the period of paid training that you undertake after completing your studies at medical school. MD residency takes place in a working hospital or a clinic and provides in-depth, hands-on training within a specialized field of medicine.

Other professions also require or encourage residency completion.



PRE-HEALTH DEGREES AND PROFESSIONS



Residency not required:

- Nursing; RN, BSN, etc.
- Nurse Practitioner (Master's degree)
 - 2 year program
- Physician Assistant/Associate (PA)
 - 3 Year program
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
 - Residency optional
- Dentistry (General)

Master's Degree:

- Licensed Marriage Family Therapist/LPCC
- Public Health (Master's Degree)
- Biomedical Sciences

Health Professional Program: (Residency required)

- Medical Doctor MD
- Osteopathic Doctor, DO
- PhD/MD (Medical Scientist)

Licensing Programs:

- Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Medical Sonographer
- Associates, BA and 1-year license programs
- Nutritional Science



INTERNSHIPS AND EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

GET EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN).

- Inquire at both large hospitals and community clinics
- County and private hospitals
- Background checks without SSN

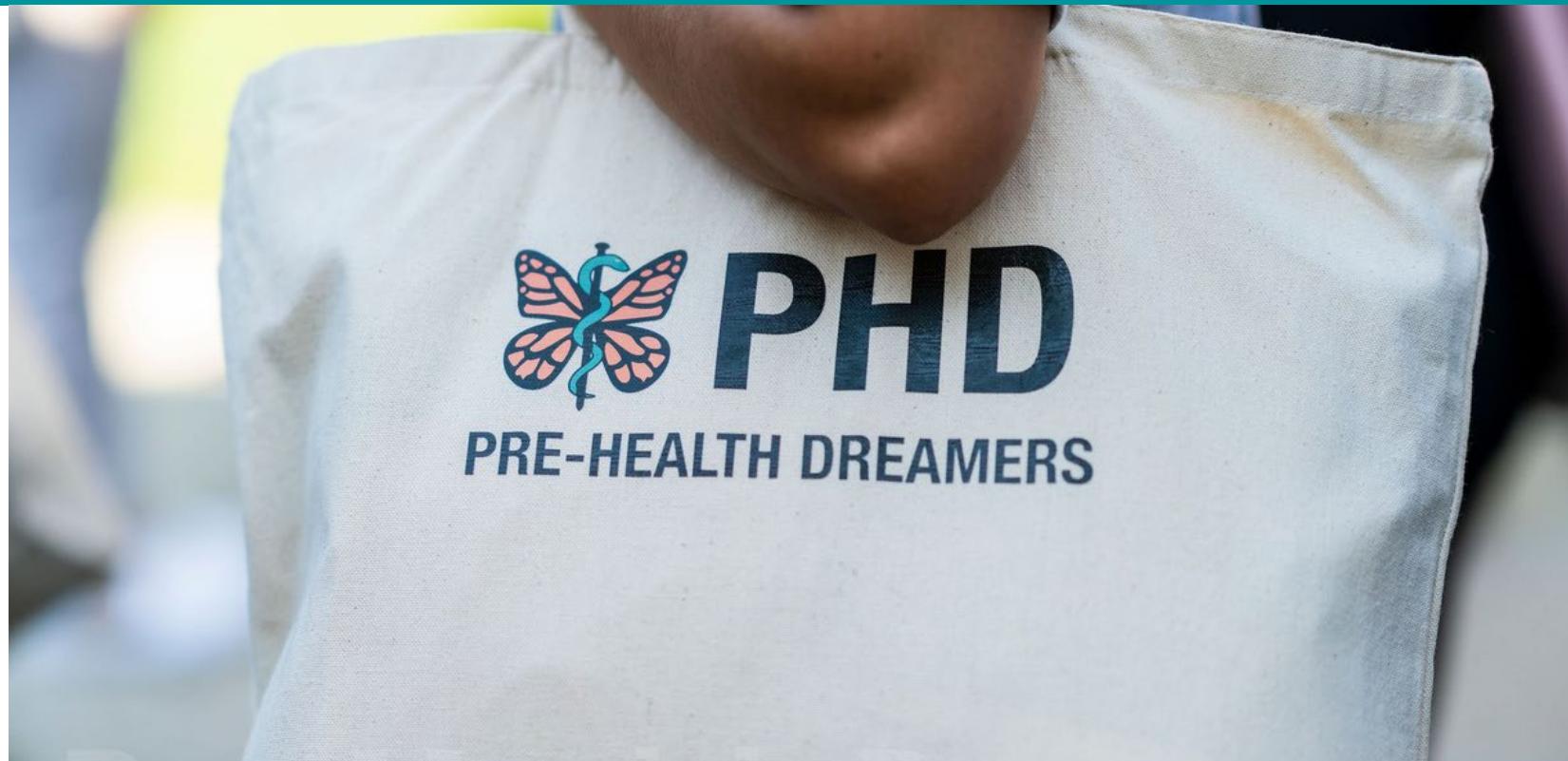
PERMANENT-RESIDENT OR CITIZENSHIP AS A REQUIREMENT ON THE APPLICATION DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN NON-SSN, DACA OR TPS RECIPIENTS CAN'T APPLY.

Contact the institution or organization and let them know you have employment authorization.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- HONOR YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- LEAVING HOME TO TAKE OPPORTUNITIES
- GETTING PAID - ASSESS YOUR OPTIONS

Can I get employment without an SSN and EAD?



- SB 1159 and SB 1139 do not provide employment authorization.
- Without an SSN and EAD, individuals are not able to be an employee.
- However, individuals without employment authorization can become sole proprietors/independent contractors and start their own business as health professionals.
- Other income-generating options exist, such as freelance work, independent contracting, and entrepreneurship



ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITHOUT EAD: DEGREES AND PROFESSIONS

Associates Degree (2 years)

- Nursing
- EMT/Paramedic
- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Optician

Bachelor's Degree Programs (4-year)

- Registered Nurse
- Dental Hygienist
- Registered Dietician
- Clinical Lab Technician
- Recreational Therapist
- Athletic Trainer

Master's Degree Programs (2-3 years after Bachelor's Degree)

- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Public Health
- SpeechLanguage Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Clinical Lab Scientist

Doctoral Degree Programs (4 or more years after Bachelor's Degree)

- Medicine (w/out med res)
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Optometry
- Podiatric Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Start preparing financially for professional or graduate school early.

Understanding expenses and existing financial options will help you.

- Expenses as a pre-health student and graduate student
 - Application fees
 - Entrance exam fees
 - Study guides
 - Professional attire
 - Travel to interviews
 - And more.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

- Financial Aid (In-state tuition, if available)
- Program specific support
 - Ex. Fee Assistance Program
- Institutional aid
 - *Using their language is important*
 - Need based scholarships
 - Merit-based scholarships
 - Emergency Funding
 - Grants/Fellowships
- Scholarships
- Employment (if available)
- Loans
- Institutional or Private
- Crowdfunding Campaigns (Go-Fund Me, etc.)



LOANS

- In the last years -- Students have successfully been able to take out commercial loans with a U.S. citizen or permanent resident co-signer
 - Private loans through Stilt, SoFi, Discover, Sally Mae, and Citizens Bank
 - University Loans
 - Credit card: Discover, MPOWR
- **Self-Help - DACA Medical Students - ITIN Co-Signer**
- **Social Finance - DACA and TPS recipients - Various graduate and professional programs - No-Co-signer needed**
 - Contact yadi@phdreamers.org for more info .

LOAN REPAYMENT

Federal loan forgiveness options are not available to undocumented individuals .

Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) in CA

- SB 1139 (Lara)sponsored by Pre-Health Dreamers allows undocumented health professionals to apply to the the state's loan repayment program
- Loan repayment in exchange for service in an underserved area
- Nursing - Up to \$19K
- LVN - Up to \$6K
- MD - Up to \$105K
- Medical assistants, laboratory technicians, and more .

Loan Repayment Programs ex [CalHealthCares](#)



PERSONAL SCRIPT (DACA)

Finding Your Voice

Advocacy and early connection with future campus staff and administrators is important



Dear Office of Admissions at _____,

My name is _____. I am currently an undergraduate student at _____. I am applying for [dental] school admission during the [2020] cycle. I am very interested in applying to _____. However, I have specific questions and concerns that I wanted to address with the admissions office before I submit my application.

I am a [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)] recipient. Briefly, this means that I am not a citizen, nor do I have a permanent residency green card. However, I have resided in the U.S. for most of my life. With this recent program [DACA], I was granted an SSN and Employment Authorization. For more information regarding DACA Recipients in Higher Education please visit:

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>

<https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School -Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf>

<https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-and-employment-2017-09-07.pdf>

I am wondering if your school would consider my application and how it would be classified (in state, out of state, international, etc.). If yes, are there any documents that I need to submit to the campus for residency, financial aid and tuition purposes?

Another pressing concern is the availability/my eligibility for need or merit based financial aid. Does your school offer any kind of institutional aid, fellowships or loans for students that are not citizens/permanent residents? Are there campus scholarships that I can apply for? What is the likelihood of receiving aid? Do you have a financial aid counselor who is familiar with undocumented students you can refer me to?

I appreciate any information that you may have regarding my concerns. If you have any further questions regarding what my [DACA] status entails, please do not hesitate to ask. I can definitely provide more resources and literature!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.



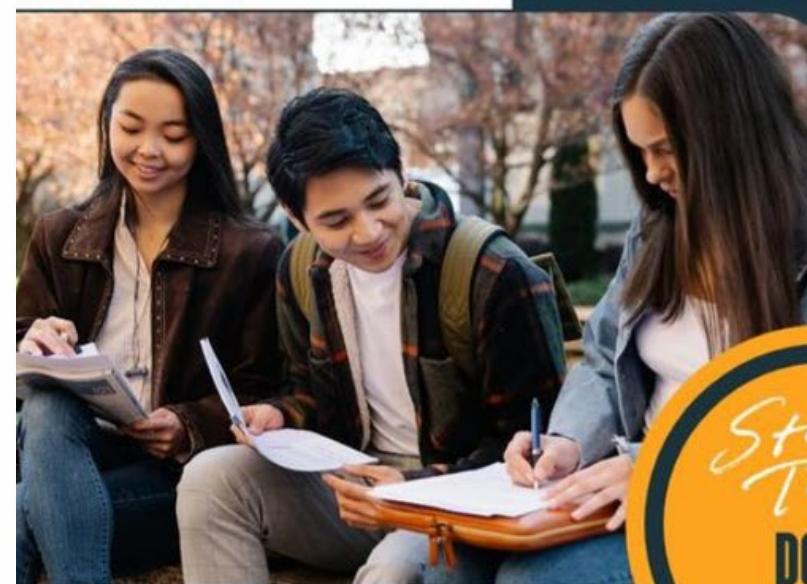
**Self-Advocacy
and a
Strong Network
Is a scholar's
lifeline.**





Pa⁺hways

UNLOCKING HEALTH CAREERS, BREAKING BARRIERS



Stay Tuned
DON'T
MISS IT!



PATHWAYS is a four-month virtual program designed to help undergraduate undocumented students who are passionate about pursuing careers in healthcare. The program offers career exploration and focuses on various aspects such as professional development, academic enhancement, advocacy, establishing support networks, and introduction to entrepreneurship.

ELIGIBILITY

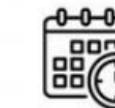
Identify as undocumented, DACAmented or under TPS and must reside in the US

Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior attending a 4-year university or community college

Must be interested in pursuing a health profession degree in the future

Must meet participation requirements (see application for details)

APPLICATION CYCLE



Application Release: 9/6/2024
Application Deadline: 11/08/2024

“

California Risks Losing an Entire Generation of Physicians:

What Higher
Education Institutions
Can Do to Remove
Barriers for
Undocumented
Medical Students



BRIEF IS NOW AVAILABLE AT
PHDREAMERS.ORG/RESOURCE-MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Immigrant
Legal Services
Center

PHD
PRE-HEALTH DREAMERS



Contact Us

- [phdreamers](https://www.instagram.com/phdreamers)
- [phdreamers.org](https://www.phdreamers.org)
- ✉ yadi@phdreamers.org

